

Recycling Meeting Minutes 4-March-2021 @ 6:00 P.M.

Members Present (remotely)	Members Absent	Guests Present (remotely)
Lee Williams Rebecca Gore Karen Willis Betty Mattson Mary Beth Hayes Norm Eisenmann	Ivy Igbe Jocelyn Demuth	Ray Pourali
Sustainability Manager Present (remotely) Melissa Joyce		

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

RECEIVED

2021-04-05

9:21 AM

Sustainability Manager Update – Melissa Joyce

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

TONNAGE TOTALS for January 2021

PATRICIA E. DZURIS

Pink bags 11,571 pounds

TOWN CLERK

Recycling: 266.77 tons

Trash: 854.86 tons

(23.7% recycled. 24% diverted includes pink bags)

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST

Compost bins and rain barrel sales going well. We need to get the library involved for additional advertising. Karen will readvertise the Compost bins and rain barrel sale on Patch.

Melissa created Events on Facebook for Household Hazardous Waste, Shredding, and other events.

Melissa has requested a wish list of items from the Library that we could buy for the Library of Things borrowing program. Funds from the Dividend Rewards Program could be used.

57 people were registered for the Talking Trash presentation that was done via Zoom by Keep Massachusetts Beautiful.

For those who were unable to attend, here is a link to the recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/8q83kVXM33uekmN7ZPHww3IPRNN2WvUH6IDQWYKmUeKKRYtthtQILR7mHx_cqe5Wx6bJVftRmNW0iAXD-.4XRP6GUEe8lziacd?autoplay=true&startTime=1614728985000

Melissa will get together the breakdown of costs for recycling pickup, trash pickup, trash disposal, and recycling processing.

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Review and Approve Meeting Minutes – February 2021

The February meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Eco Club Input

No update.

Old Business

Recent and Upcoming Events

EVENT	DATE(S)	TIME	LOCATION
Talking Trash and Recycling Presentation	2-March COMPLETE	7:00 p.m.	On-line Everyone was encouraged to watch it if they missed it.
Rain Barrel and Compost Bin pickup	27-March	9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	DPW garage at 9 Alpha Road
First Bulb Shed Day of 2021	7-April	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Behind Town Hall
Household Hazardous Waste	24-April	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW yard at 9 Alpha Road
Town wide Cleanup	20-April to 27-April	Not applicable	Not applicable
Shredding Event	8-May	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW yard at 9 Alpha Road
Leaf drop-off	15-May	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW yard at 9 Alpha Road
Brush drop-off (may not be able to be held if wood chips cannot be sent to energy plants)	15-May	To Be Determined	Community Tree

Publicity/website Update

The new website (www.chelmsfordrecycles.com) is up and running on SquareSpace.

- Information from the old site that was hosted on Bluehost has been copied over to the new site.
- Betty and Norm have validated most of the links and the information regarding addresses, phone, etc.
- Norm still needs to go through the suggestions from the members and incorporate the comments.
- Pictures need to be taken at upcoming events to add to the website.
- Norm setup an email address for the Committee in order that the contact forms can come to the Committee, versus Melissa. He will try to check the email at least daily to answer questions. Currently Betty and Norm have the password.
- Norm suggested that the members should all send notes to Marion and thank her for maintaining the website all this time.
- Norm needs to find an easy way to transfer everything on the .com site to the .org site.

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Publicity

The Committee needs to readvertise the rain barrels and compost bin sale and the Bulb Shed open days. The Committee discussed if we could get more post cards from the DEP to handout at drop off events. The Committee also discussed taking still camera pictures and/or videos and/or drone pictures of events.

Plastic Bag Ban Status/Update

The ban went into effect 1-March-2021. Stop and Shop, DeMoulas, and Walgreens among other stores have gone to only paper.

Review of 2020-2021 Goals and Long-Term Goals

See Attachment 1 for updated goals.

Review of Open Action Items

Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
5-Nov-2020	Melissa Lee	Work with the Building Commissioner to finalize and send the letter regarding the plastic bag ban.	COMPLETE
5-Nov-2020	Mary Beth	Need to order bags to hand out at the Farmers Market. (The last order was from Bullet Brands and cost \$2.60/bag for 500 bags, made from recycled materials.) Mary Beth will investigate. Can also purchase virgin cotton bags or recycled plastic bags. Will ask for samples to review the quality. Bullet Brands will send a couple of samples.	3-June-2021
4-Feb-2021		Create flyer for the tax bill	July
4-Mar-2021	Norm	Submit February meeting minutes to the Town Clerk	Complete
4-Mar-2021	Norm	Submit March draft minutes to the Committee	12-Mar-2021
4-Mar-2021	Karen	Readvertise the Compost bins and rain barrel sale on Patch.	13-Feb-2021
4-Mar-2021	Melissa	Put together the breakdown of costs for recycling pickup, trash pickup, trash disposal, and recycling processing	1-April-2021
4-Mar-2021	Betty	Determine if she can take videos of upcoming drop-offs.	
4-Feb-2021	Lee	Repair Cafés Research/Prep	3-June-2021
4-Feb-2021	Lee Karen Rebecca	Organics curbside pickup: Town request for bids; residents sign up and pay individually. Offbeat is one possibility. Karen has information from previous years.	3-June-2021
4-Feb-2021	Lee Karen Rebecca	Organics drop-off: Promote with sale of compost bins in the spring, free compost pails?	3-June-2021
4-Feb-2021	Norm Mary Beth	Support parts of the first Shed Day of the year.	7-April-2021

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Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
	Melissa		
5-Feb-2021	Melissa	Arrange for a fluorescent bulb pickup before 7-April.	1-April-2021
4-Feb-2021		Obtain more post cards from the DEP to handout at drop off events	

New Business

Ray Pourali gave the Committee a briefing on indoor and outdoor composting.

- Ray is a resident of Chelmsford but works out of Boston at the Department for Veteran Affairs. He has a background in Chemical and Environmental Engineering.
- Ray teaches classes on composting including grade school students. See www.enviropal.org.
- Composting can have a huge impact on trash costs.
- Composting can be done indoors in apartments.
- The composted 'Black gold' can be sold for \$30/pound or used to improve your soil.
- Cooking oil should not be composted because it will attract pests.
- Arlington cannot dispose of organic matter in the trash. Each resident got a free starter kit.

Open Discussion

1-April-2021 is the next meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Review of 2020-2021 Goals and Long-Term Goals

Mission Statement:

The Chelmsford Recycling Committee is dedicated to reducing the volume of solid waste generated in the town of Chelmsford. The committee strives to promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling, repairing, and composting among the residents, businesses, and institutions in the town of Chelmsford.

Prior to June 2021	Beyond June 2021	Recycling Committee Goals	Committee Member Taking Lead
		EDUCATION/AWARENESS	
X		Website overhaul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website up and running. • Using Squarespace as the 'one stop shop'. • Initially will set up under chelmsfordrecycles.com. • Once functional then transfer back to .org. 	Norm
	X	Library presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wait until after the Trash/Recycling Presentation. • Consider discussing not using plastics in laundry products and other products. 	Betty
X		Town-wide Clean-up re-imagined	Ivy
complete		Talking Trash & Recycling Presentation	Karen
		REDUCE WASTE	
	X	Charge fee for bulk items	
	X	Promote reduction of waste (prevention), awareness of the impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does waste disposal and recycling actually cost Chelmsford's households? 	Mary Beth
		RE-USE/REPAIR	
	X	Transfer station/swap shop	
	X	Promote local swap resources (Buy Nothing Chelmsford, etc.)	Betty Mary Beth
X		Repair Cafés Research/Prep	Lee
	X	Repair Cafés Three events/year, post-pandemic (Eco Club participation?)	
		RECYCLE-RESIDENTIAL/TOWN RECYCLING	
	X	Multi-vendor recycling event (shredding, electronics, tires, etc.)	Karen
	X	Trash/recycling bins at parks, athletic fields	
		RECYCLE-BUSINESS RECYCLING	
	X	Advocate for Board of Health mandate for hauler permits	Jocelyn

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Prior to June 2021	Beyond June 2021	Recycling Committee Goals	Committee Member Taking Lead
	X	Plan the Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research how other MA municipalities have implemented business recycling programs and • Conduct a survey of Chelmsford businesses to find out what level of business recycling is going on now. Eco Club could help with either or both of the items.	Jocelyn Mary Beth
	X	Promote awareness	Jocelyn
COMPOST			
X		Organics curbside pickup: Town request for bids; residents sign up and pay individually. Offbeet is one possibility. Karen has information from previous years.	Lee Karen Rebecca
X		Organics drop-off: Promote with sale of compost bins in the spring, free compost pails?	Lee Karen Rebecca
	X	Curbside organics	
	X	Promote overwintering of leaves	Jocelyn